AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) an extract obtained from a plant that is at least one of Citrus tachibana and citrus Citrus unshiu comprising a polymethoxyflavone that is at least one compound represented by formula (I):

$$R^3$$
 R^4
 R^5
 R^8
 R^1
 R^9
 R^9
 R^9
 R^9
 R^9
 R^9
 R^9
 R^9

wherein each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a sugar residue, and at least four of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ are methoxy groups;

wherein the extract is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant that is at least one of Citrus tachibana and

Citrus unshiu to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group

consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene

glycol and 1,3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

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dissolving the extract (S1) in ethyl acetate, adding water thereto,

stirring, separating into layers, removing a water layer, and distilling off the ethyl

acetate to obtain a dry solid product (S2); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S2) in a solvent, and subjecting it to

liquid column chromatography;

wherein the polymethoxyflavone is contained in an amount of 0.00005

to 10 wt % in the composition;

(b) 0.01 to 10 wt % of a whitening agent selected from the group

consisting of ascorbic acid and its salts or esters, kojic acid, hydroquinone, placental

extracts, ellagic acid, and mixtures thereof; and

(c) the remainder being a base consisting essentially of water and

at least one selected from the group consisting of ethanol, isopropyl alcohol,

polyhydric alcohols, hydrocarbon oils, natural fats, natural oils, synthetic

triglycerides, ester oils, waxes, polysiloxanes, oils, anionic surfactants, amphoteric

surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, semipolar surfactants, water

soluble polymers, organic salts, inorganic salts, anti-inflammatory agents, pH

regulators, germicidal agents, chelating agents, antioxidants, ultra violet absorbers,

pigments, and fragrances.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1,

wherein the extract comprises at least one polymethoxyflavone selected from the

group consisting of

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$$H_3C$$
 CH_3
 CH_3
 CH_3
 CH_3
 CH_3
 CH_3

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ \text{H}_3 \text{C} \\ \text{CH}_3 \\ \end{array} \text{; and}$$

Claim 3 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 2, wherein the extract comprises at least one polymethoxyflavone selected from the group consisting of 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethoxyflavone and 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyflavone.

Claims 4-15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): The composition of claim [[15]] 1, wherein the liquid column chromatography uses silica gel and/or alumina as a filler and a mixed solution of hexane/ethanol in a volume proportion of 70/30 to 97/3 as an eluent.

Claims 17-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (new): A cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) an extract obtained from a plant that is at least one of Citrus tachibana and Citrus unshiu comprising a polymethoxyflavone that is at least one compound represented by formula (I):

$$R^3$$
 R^4
 R^5
 R^6
 R^7
 R^8
 R^2
 R^1
 R^1
 R^2
 R^3
 R^9
 R^9
 R^8
 R^9

wherein each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a sugar residue, and at least four of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ are methoxy groups;

wherein the extract is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant that is at least one of Citrus tachibana and

Citrus unshiu to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group

consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene

glycol and 1,3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in hexane and/or chloroform, removing a

precipitate, distilling off the hexane and/or chloroform to obtain a dry solid product

(S3); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S3) in a solvent, and subjecting it to

liquid column chromatography;

wherein the polymethoxyflavone is contained in an amount of 0.00005

to 10 wt % in the composition;

0.01 to 10 wt % of a whitening agent selected from the group (b)

consisting of ascorbic acid and its salts or esters, kojic acid, hydroquinone, placental

extracts, ellagic acid, and mixtures thereof; and

the remainder being a base consisting essentially of water and (c)

at least one selected from the group consisting of ethanol, isopropyl alcohol,

polyhydric alcohols, hydrocarbon oils, natural fats, natural oils, synthetic

triglycerides, ester oils, waxes, polysiloxanes, oils, anionic surfactants, amphoteric

surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, semipolar surfactants, water

soluble polymers, organic salts, inorganic salts, anti-inflammatory agents, pH

regulators, germicidal agents, chelating agents, antioxidants, ultra violet absorbers,

pigments, and fragrances.

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Claim 20 (new): The cosmetic composition of claim 19, wherein the extract comprises at least one polymethoxyflavone selected from the group consisting of

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Claim 21 (new): The cosmetic composition of claim 20, wherein the extract comprises at least one polymethoxyflavone selected from the group consisting of 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethoxyflavone and 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyflavone.

Claim 22 (new): The composition of claim 19, wherein the liquid column chromatography uses silica gel and/or alumina as a filler and a mixed solution of hexane/ethanol in a volume proportion of 70/30 to 97/3 as an eluent.